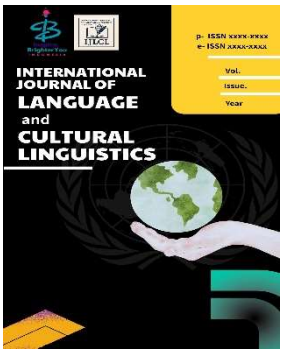
IJLCL
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL LINGUISTICS



A Semantic Analysis Of The Kid Laroi's Songs

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Abstract:
This study investigates lexical and contextual meanings found in three songs performed by The Kid LAROI, namely "Night Like This," "Love Again," and "Too Much." The research uses a descriptive qualitative method and applies George Yule's semantic theory, Geoffrey Leech's contextual meaning theory, and Hurford's semantic theory as the theoretical framework. Semantics is the study of meaning in words, phrases, and sentences. The data were obtained from the lyrics of the selected songs and analyzed by identifying lexical and contextual meanings. Lexical meaning refers to the literal meaning of a word as it is usually found in dictionaries, while contextual meaning refers to the interpretation of the meaning based on the context in which the word is used. The results indicate that many expressions in the selected songs have meanings that differ from their dictionary definitions when interpreted in their lyrical contexts. The songs mainly portray themes such as love, regret, longing, emotional attachment, reconciliation, and personal insecurity. The study shows that contextual meaning contributes significantly to the interpretation of song lyrics and allows listeners to understand the songwriter's intended message more deeply.

ARTICLE HISTORY
Submitted: 20-08-2025
Revised: 20-09-2025
Accepted: 30-10-2025
Published: 31-12-2025

KEYWORDS
semantics, lexical meaning, contextual meaning, song lyrics, The Kid LAROI

INTRODUCTION

Language serves as an important medium through which people communicate ideas, feelings, and experiences. Through language, individuals can establish social relationships and convey meanings in different situations. A branch of linguistics that specifically investigates meaning is semantics.

According to George Yule, semantics is the study of the meaning of words, phrases, and sentences. Semantic analysis focuses on the conventional meanings shared by language users rather than on personal interpretations. Within the field of semantics, meaning can be examined through multiple theoretical lenses. According to George Yule, meaning is divided into two categories: conceptual meaning, which encompasses the literal and dictionary-based definition of a word, and associative meaning, which involves additional layers of interpretation shaped

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by personal emotions, lived experiences, and surrounding context. Complementing this view, Geoffrey Leech highlights the significance of contextual meaning the idea that the interpretation of language is heavily dependent on the circumstances in which it is produced and received. Furthermore, Hurford, Heasley, and Smith argue that affective expressions and figurative language play a considerable role in how meaning is constructed and understood. Collectively, these theoretical frameworks prove particularly applicable when examining song lyrics, given that such texts frequently carry meanings that extend well beyond their surface-level or literal readings. The study of semantics has become increasingly important in literary analysis because literary works often use language that contains meanings beyond their literal interpretations. Songs are among the most popular forms of literary expression. Through song lyrics, artists communicate emotions, personal experiences, and social messages. Consequently, song lyrics provide valuable material for semantic analysis.

As a fundamental branch of linguistics, semantics holds a significant role in human communication due to its focus on meaning. The application of semantic study is widely found in literary works, including poetry, fiction, and music, since literary language tends to carry meanings that extend beyond their surface-level interpretation. Based on prior research, song lyrics serve as rich data for semantic investigation, given that the vocabulary and expressions chosen by songwriters frequently convey both dictionary-based and context-driven meanings. Thus, conducting semantic analysis enables listeners to grasp the deeper message and emotional layers embedded within a song's lyrics.

The Kid LAROI is a contemporary artist whose songs often explore themes related to relationships, emotional struggles, heartbreak, and reconciliation. The songs “Night Like This,” “Love Again,” and “Too Much” present various expressions that can be examined semantically. Many words and phrases appearing in these songs contain both lexical and contextual meanings, making them suitable for semantic investigation.

The songs chosen for this study were selected on the basis that they encompass a wide range of expressions revolving around themes such as romantic love, emotional pain, attachment, yearning, and the possibility of reconciliation. These themes tend to be portrayed through specific words and phrases whose meanings go beyond what is found in a standard dictionary. As a result, the selected songs offer appropriate material for exploring how lexical meaning and contextual meaning relate to one another.

A number of earlier studies have explored the distinction between lexical and contextual meanings within song lyrics. Pasisingi, Mariana, and Husain (2022) conducted an examination of these two types of meaning in songs by Maroon 5, discovering that numerous words and phrases carry contextual meanings that diverge significantly from their literal definitions. Their findings demonstrated that semantic analysis is an effective tool for uncovering the deeper messages communicated through lyrics. Nevertheless, academic research specifically addressing the songs of The Kid LAROI remains scarce. In response to this gap, the present study seeks to enrich the field of semantic research by analyzing lexical and contextual meanings found in a selection of The Kid LAROI's songs.

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Accordingly, the present study is conducted to examine the lexical meanings, contextual meanings, and emotional expressions embedded within the selected song lyrics. Beyond identification, this study further attempt to explore the extent to which conceptual meaning, associative meaning, contextual meaning, and emotional expressions collectively shape and reinforce the overarching messages that the songwriter intends to communicate.

Research Questions

1. What lexical meanings are found in the lyrics of "Night Like This," "Love Again," and "Too Much"?
2. What contextual meanings are found in the lyrics of the selected songs?
3. What messages are conveyed through the lexical and contextual meanings found in the songs?

Objectives of the Study

1. To identify lexical meanings in the selected songs.
2. To identify contextual meanings in the selected songs.
3. To explain the messages conveyed through the lyrics based on semantic analysis.

Several researchers have previously conducted studies concerning semantic analysis in song lyrics. Pasisingi et al. analyzed lexical and contextual meanings in songs by Maroon 5 and found that many expressions possessed contextual meanings that differed from their literal interpretations. Their findings suggested that song lyrics often represent emotional experiences related to love, struggle, betrayal, and loss.

Other studies examining song lyrics have also demonstrated that contextual meaning plays an important role in helping listeners understand the deeper messages intended by songwriters. Previous research has focused on artists such as Christina Perri and Lewis Capaldi. However, limited attention has been given to The Kid LAROI's songs from a semantic perspective.

Therefore, this research attempts to fill this gap by investigating lexical and contextual meanings in three songs performed by The Kid LAROI using George Yule's semantic theory, Geoffrey Leech's contextual meaning theory, and Hurford's semantic theory.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Semantics

George Yule defines semantics as the study of the meaning of words, phrases, and sentences. Semantic analysis focuses on conventional meanings shared by language users. Rather than concentrating on individual interpretations, semantics seeks to explain the meanings that are generally understood within a language community.

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Conceptual Meaning

As defined by Yule (2020), conceptual meaning encompasses the fundamental and literal interpretation of a word — the core definition that is universally recognized among language users and typically documented in dictionaries. This type of meaning constitutes the essential building blocks of linguistic understanding and functions as the basis upon which language expressions are interpreted. In the context of this study, conceptual meaning is closely associated with lexical meaning, as both approaches prioritize the literal reading of words appearing in song lyrics.

Associative Meaning

According to Yule (2020), associative meaning refers to the supplementary meanings, emotional responses, or mental connections that a word evokes beyond its basic definition. In contrast to conceptual meaning, associative meaning is shaped by various factors including situational context, individual experiences, cultural influences, and emotional perspectives. Consequently, a single word may carry a range of meanings that extend well beyond its dictionary entry. Within this study, associative meaning is linked to contextual meaning, given that the interpretation of lyrics in a song is frequently determined by the circumstances and emotional atmosphere conveyed throughout the piece.

Lexical Meaning

Lexical meaning refers to the basic and literal meaning of a word, as it is typically found in a dictionary. According to George Yule (2020), lexical meaning is closely related to conceptual meaning, as both emphasize the core and essential meaning of a linguistic expression. Lexical meaning is context-independent and represents the meaning generally understood by language users. In semantic analysis, lexical meaning serves as the foundation for understanding word usage before contextual interpretations are considered. This study uses lexical meaning to determine the dictionary meanings of words and phrases in the song lyrics of The Kid LAROI.

Contextual Meaning

According to Geoffrey Leech, contextual meaning refers to the interpretation of a word or expression based on the context in which it is used. A single word can mean different things based on the context, who is speaking, who is listening, and the feelings involved. Therefore, context plays an important role in understanding the intended message of song lyrics. This theory is applied to understand the contextual meaning of The Kid LAROI's lyrics.

Emotional Expressions and Figurative Meaning

According to the findings of Hurford, Heasley, and Smith, meaning can be derived from emotional expressions and figurative language. Songwriters often use words to express feelings such as love, sadness, regret, hope, and emotional attachment. These expressions help listeners interpret the songwriter's emotions and intended message. As a result, Hurford's theory reinforces the analysis of emotional expressions observed in the specified songs.

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METHOD

This study employed a descriptive qualitative research design. Qualitative research was selected because the data consisted of words and phrases found in song lyrics. The primary data sources were the lyrics of "Night Like This," "Love Again," and "Too Much" by The Kid LAROI.

The procedures of data collection involved obtaining the lyrics, reading them repeatedly, identifying words and phrases containing lexical and contextual meanings, classifying the data, and interpreting the meanings based on George Yule's semantic theory, Geoffrey Leech's thcontextual meaning theory, and Hurford's semantic theory. The findings were then analyzed descriptively to explain the relationship between lexical meaning and contextual meaning.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings are categorized according to the three songs analyzed in this study, namely "Night Like This," "Love Again," and "Too Much" by The Kid LAROI. The researcher identified words and phrases that contain lexical meaning and contextual meaning. According to Yule, semantics is concerned with the study of the meaning of words, phrases, and sentences, focusing on the conventional meanings shared by language users. The writers chose Kid LAROI albums and only used three song lyrics in the album. They are Night Like This, Love Again, and Too Much.

Table 1. Lexical and Contextual Meanings in "Night Like This"

No	Lyric	Lexical Meaning	Contextual Meaning
1	Night	The period of darkness between sunset and sunrise	A memorable romantic moment shared with someone special
2	Stay	To remain in a place	To remain committed in a relationship
3	Heart	The organ that pumps blood through the body	A symbol of love, affection, and emotional attachment
4	Lost	Unable to find one's way	Feeling emotionally confused because of love
5	Memory	Something remembered from the past	Romantic experiences that continue to influence emotions
6	Eyes	Organs used for seeing	Deep attention and affection toward a partner
7	Hold	To grasp or keep firmly	Maintaining emotional closeness
8	Dream	Thoughts occurring during sleep	Hope for a successful relationship
9	Time	Measured duration	Precious moments spent with a loved one
10	Forever	Endless period of time	Desire for a lasting relationship

Table 2. Lexical and Contextual Meanings in "Love Again"

No	Lyric	Lexical Meaning	Contextual Meaning
11	Love	Strong affection toward someone	Romantic commitment and devotion
12	Broken	Physically damaged	Emotionally hurt after a failed relationship
13	Heal	To recover from injury or illness	Recovering emotionally from heartbreak
14	Chance	An opportunity to do something	A second opportunity to repair a relationship
15	Again	Once more	Rebuilding a relationship after separation
16	Tears	Drops of liquid from the eyes	Emotional pain and sadness
17	Sorry	An expression of apology	Regret for mistakes committed in a relationship
18	Trust	Confidence in someone's honesty	Emotional security between partners
19	Fall	To move downward	Falling in love emotionally

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20	Hope	A feeling of expectation	Desire for reconciliation and happiness

Table 3. Lexical and Contextual Meanings in “Too Much”

No	Lyric	Lexical Meaning	Contextual Meaning
21	Too Much	Excessive quantity or amount	Overwhelming romantic feelings
22	Need	To require something essential	Emotional dependence on a partner
23	Crazy	Mentally unstable	Extremely attracted to someone
24	Touch	Physical contact with someone or something	Emotional intimacy and affection
25	Feelings	Emotional states or reactions	Romantic attachment and affection
26	Addiction	Dependence on a substance or activity	Inability to stop thinking about a loved one
27	Fire	A process of burning	Passion and intense desire in a relationship
28	Run	To move quickly using one's legs	Avoiding emotional commitment
29	Close	Near in distance	Emotional closeness and intimacy
30	Mine	Belonging to oneself	Desire to keep a loved one exclusively

CONCLUSION

The analysis shows that lexical meaning and contextual meaning often differ between the selected songs. Lexical meaning represents the literal interpretation of words, while contextual meaning emerges from the emotional and situational contexts presented in the lyrics. Yule explains that semantic analysis focuses on the conventional meanings of linguistic expressions while recognizing that interpretation can be influenced by context.

In “Night Like This,” the dominant theme is about emotional attachment and memorable experiences in a romantic relationship. Several lexical words such as “night,” “heart,” and “forever” convey meanings beyond their literal definitions. Within the context of the song, these words symbolize intimacy, affection, and the desire to preserve meaningful moments with a partner.

The song "Love Again" primarily depicts reconciliation and emotional recovery after heartbreak. Terms like "broken," "heal," and "chance" illustrate how literal meanings evolve into emotional interpretations. The song communicates regret, forgiveness, and hope for rebuilding a damaged relationship.

In “Too Much,” the dominant theme is emotional dependency and intense attraction. Words like “need,” “crazy,” and “fire” do not simply express their dictionary meanings but instead represent strong emotional experiences. The contextual meanings in this song emphasize passion, vulnerability, and strong romantic attachment.

Overall, the results show that contextual meaning contributes significantly to understanding the songwriter's intended message. The lexical elements in the songs function not only as literal expressions but also as symbols of love, longing, uncertainty, reconciliation and emotional commitment. Semantic analysis therefore provides a deeper understanding of the messages communicated through song lyrics.

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